

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 03487 250958Z

44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07

H-03 IO-14 SPC-03 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 250900Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2151

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 3487

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, RP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: GOP CONCERN ABOUT HOMECOMING FARE PROBLEM

REF: MANIAL 3435

1. DURING CALL BY EMBOFFS MARCH 22, TOURISM SECY AND CAB CHAIRMAN ASPIRAS AND HIS STAFF EVINced DISTRESS AT US CAB'S SUSPENSION OF NWA HOMECOMING FARE FILING. SAYING HE WAS IN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT POSITION IN TRYING TO PROVIDE TRAVEL FACILITIES FOR 28,000 BALIKBAYAN (HOMECOMING) RETURNEES ALREADY REGISTERED WITH PHIL CONSULATES (WITH AN ADDITIONAL 20,000 CHILDREN EXPECTED APPLY DURING SCHOOL VACATION). ASPIRAS STATED SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR RETURNEES ON PAL (REFTEL) WOULD MEET ONLY A FRACTION OF THE NEED. CHARTER FLIGHTS WOULD ALSO NOT HELP VERY MUCH, EXPECIALLY IN VIEW US CAB'S UNWILLINGNESS TO PERMIT EARLY BEGINNING OF AIR MANILA FLIGHTS.

2. ASPIRAS SAID THE \$555 FARE WOULD HAVE GONE FAR TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. NOT ONLY WOULD IT HAVE ADDED NWA AND CAL CAPACITY TO THE PROGRAM BUT IT WOULD ALSO HAVE ELIMINATED THE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY FEATURE. HE SAID HE HAD DIRECTED PAL TO FILE A NON-DISCRIMINATORY GROUP-10 FAR AT THE SAME LEVEL WITH US CAB, BUT HE COULD NOT

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PAGE 02 MANILA 03487 250958Z

CONFIRM THAT PAL HAD DONE SO. EMBOFFS POINTED TO

POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES THIS WOULD RAISE FOR THE IATA-
APPROVED FARE STRUCTURE. (FYI LOCAL NWA MANAGER STATES
HIS AIRLINE WOULD PROTEST A \$555 NON-DISCRIMINATORY FARE
FILING BY PAL.)

3. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE ASPIRAS WAS ANXIOUS TO
HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS WE MIGHT OFFER TO HELP RESOLVE
PROBLEM OF GOP'S COMMITMENT TO BALIKBAYAN RTAVELERS, WE
WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON REACTION TO PROPOSED NON-
DISCRIMINATORY FILING AND ANY OTHER SUGGESTION DEPT OR
US CAB MAY HAVE RE PROMOTIONAL FARE POSSIBILITIES FOR
REMAINDER OF HOMECOMING PROGRAM.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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